

CGB CC-0421

ANN BAVENDER*
SIMA N. CHOWDHURY*
HARRY F. COLE
ANNE GOODWIN CRUMP
VINCENT J. CURTIS, JR.
JOSEPH M. DI SCIPIO*
PAUL J. FELDMAN
JEFFREY J. GEE*
FRANK R. JAZZO
M. SCOTT JOHNSON*
MITCHELL LAZARUS
STEPHEN T. LOVELADY*
SUSAN A. MARSHALL
HARRY C. MARTIN
ALISON J. MILLER
FRANCISCO R. MONTERO
LEE G. PETRO*
RAYMOND J. QUIANZON
MICHAEL W. RICHARDS*
JAMES P. RILEY
KATHLEEN VICTORY
HOWARD M. WEISS

* NOT ADMITTED IN VIRGINIA

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

11th FLOOR, 1300 NORTH 17th STREET

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209

OFFICE: (703) 812-0400

FAX: (703) 812-0486

www.fhhlaw.com

RETIRED MEMBERS
RICHARD HILDRETH
GEORGE PETRITSAS

CONSULTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SHELDON J. KRYSS
U. S. AMBASSADOR (ret.)

OF COUNSEL
DONALD J. EVANS
EDWARD S. O'NEILL*
ROBERT M. GURSS*
EUGENE M. LAWSON, JR.

WRITER'S DIRECT

(703) 812-0400
@fhhlaw.com

February 3, 2006

RECEIVED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
Attn: CGB Room 3-B431

Re: Petition for Exemption from Closed Captioning Requirements

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Cornerstone Church (Assemblies of God), Inc. ("Petitioner"), by its counsel, hereby requests an exemption from the closed captioning rules for its program, InFocus on the basis of undue burden, pursuant to § 79.1(f) of the Commission's rules. Attached hereto is an affidavit attesting to the facts set forth below in support of this petition.

Introduction

Petitioner is a non-profit ministry located in Madison, Tennessee. InFocus consists of segments from Petitioner's weekly services, edited to fit a 30-minute format, and it airs at 10 a.m. on Sundays in the Nashville, Tennessee market. The purpose of this programming is to

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share and spread Petitioner's fellowship and teachings to the area viewing audience; it contains no solicitations for financial contributions.

Undue Financial Burden Imposed by Closed Captioning Requirement

To provide closed captioning for InFocus, Petitioner reports that it must spend \$275 per episode, for a total of \$14,300, annually.¹ Attached hereto, as Exhibit A, is Petitioner's 2005 Annual Report ("Report"), which contains an itemized depiction of Petitioner's current financial position. Expenses for programming (TV Ministry) totaled \$166,655.92 in 2005; closed captioning alone accounted for approximately 8.5% of this amount.² Because Petitioner is a non-profit entity, all income not put toward operating costs or repayment of existing liabilities must be reinvested into the organization's mission. Therefore, any funds currently spent on closed captioning are being diverted away from its outreach, ministry and charitable work. Petitioner traditionally allocates a significant amount of its revenues for missions, as demonstrated by both the 2005 total mission expenditures of \$1,300,183.92 and the target 2006 mission expenditures of \$1,440,146.00.³ While closed captioning makes up a small fraction of outreach costs, it is comparable to the amount spent for construction of a church in Kenya, one of Petitioner's unique mission projects.⁴ Moreover, the programming itself generates no revenue, as it airs without

¹ Petitioner has made a good-faith effort to provide captioning for all programming aired since January 1, 2006, to comply with the requirements under the newly-implemented Section 79.1(b)(1)(iv) of the Commission's rules.

² See Report at 3.

³ See Report at 2-3.

⁴ See Petitioner's Web site, available at <http://www.cornerstonenashville.org/section.aspx?page=prayer> (last visited January 31, 2006).

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advertising sponsorship, and all production costs are borne by Petitioner as a service to the public.

Other factors that contribute to burden on Petitioner

Beyond the financial burden imposed on Petitioner, providing captioning also negatively impacts the timing of Petitioner's production process. Petitioner uses a captioning service located in Baltimore, due to the unavailability of any such service in its community or region. As a result, Petitioner must complete its editing well enough in advance of the scheduled broadcast to have time to ship it to the captioner, allow a period for transcription, dubbing to the appropriate format and delivery of the program to the broadcaster. Not only does the additional step in production increase the risk of delayed broadcast, it limits production flexibility and heightens the possibility for damage to or loss of the programming material.

Additional Information

Petitioner is sensitive to the needs of its hearing-impaired viewers and, as a reasonable alternative to closed-captioning, proposes to include a sign-language interpretation of its content as an insertion at the bottom corner of each program. This could be accomplished in-house, at a much lower cost and in less time than is currently demanded by closed captioning.


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Conclusion

As demonstrated above, providing closed captioning for InFocus creates an undue burden for Petitioner, and therefore, the Commission should grant a waiver of the closed captioning requirements under Section 79.1(f) of its rules. If more information is needed, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cornerstone Church (Assemblies of God), Inc.



Joseph M. DiScipio, Esq.
Sima N. Chowdhury, Esq.

Its Counsel

Date: February 3, 2006

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EXHIBIT A

See attached.

Statement of Revenue & Expense - 2005 (Un-audited)

Income

General Fund.....	\$5,469,332.00
Designated Income	1,215,545.00
Other Income	483,277.00

Total Income7,168,154.00

Draw on Construction Loan.....3,419,187.00

Revenue from All Sources\$10,587,321.00

Operating Expenses

Administration	\$763,289.00
(Utilities, Office Expenses, Maintenance)	
Reaching	1,300,183.92
(Missions/Outreach-All Departments)	
Serving	2,048,778.00
(All Wages, Insurances, & Payroll Taxes)	
Training	648,640.00
(Christian Education, Seminars, Youth, Children's Church, Men's and Ladies' Ministries, Teenagers)	
Worship	183,504.00
(Music Ministry, Special Services)	
Interest	821,353.00

Total Operating Expenses\$5,765,747.92

Asset Expenses

Bank of America	\$322,783.00
Building & Improvements	138,033.00
Construction in Progress	3,524,568.00
Equipment	8,202.00
Furniture & Fixtures	11,573.00
Land Improvements	2,984.00

Total Asset Expenses\$4,008,143.00

Total Expenses\$9,773,890.92

Excess Revenue/Expenses\$813,430.08

Liabilities & Net Assets (Un-audited)**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable.....	\$45,712.00
Accrued Interest Payable.....	47,990.00
Long Term Debt (Net of Current Portion)	13,268,337.00

Total Current Liabilities.....\$13,362,039.00

Current Net Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,350,871.00
Accounts Receivable	4,213.00
Prepaid Expenses.....	12,062.00
Land & Buildings.....	24,724,688.00
Equipment & Furniture	814,941.00
Transportation Equipment	115,771.00
Less Allowance for Depreciation.....	(3,611,064.00)

Total Current Assets.....\$23,411,482.00

Total Net Assets.....\$10,029,443.00

Giving Goal - 2006

Administrative (Utilities, Office Expenses, Maintenance)	\$1,118,082.00
Reaching (Missions/Outreach All Departments)	1,440,146.00
Serving (All Wages, Insurances, Payroll Taxes).....	2,510,944.00
Training (Christian Education, Seminars, Youth, Children's Church, Men's and Ladies' Ministries, Keanagers).....	1,053,600.00
Worship (Music Ministry, Special Services)	228,100.00
Interest/Debt Reduction	1,196,008.00

Total Expenses.....\$7,547,080.00

Total Giving Goal for 2006.....\$7,596,951.00

Foreign Missions

Africa Missions	382,931.03
Asia Little Ones.....	10,800.00
Columbian Children's Ministry	1,000.00
John Bailey (New Guinea)	240.00
Phillip Barber (Ecuador)	160.00
David Bartholow (Kenya).....	3,000.00
Dustin Bartholow (S. Asia)	600.00
Danny Bass (Kenya).....	240.00
Greg Seggs (Kenya).....	16,300.00
Dale & Janice Bruggemann (Eastern Europe/Balkans)	180.00
Donald & Jacquie Cartledge (Chile)	1,200.00
Harold Cole (Philippines)	180.00
Patrick Collins (Kenya).....	300.00
Jay Covert	300.00
CYM Missions Trip #2 (Mexico)	25,844.72
David R. Dohm (MAPS)	240.00
Roland & Judy Dudley (Western Europe)	600.00
Michael & Sheila Fitzgerald (Iceland)	3,840.00
Ron Hansen (Kenya).....	600.00
Kendra Harber (Cambodia)	240.00
Healthcare Ministries	180.00
Keith Hudman (East Africa)	240.00
India	3,200.00
Keith & Christi Jones (Middle East/N. Africa)	900.00
Kirk Jones (Panama)	120.00
Odel & Martha Jones (Western Europe)	600.00
Bill Kuert (Kenya)	800.00
Roger Kuykendall (Africa)	175.00
Nathan Lamberth (Belize)	70.00
Light for the Lost	1,000.00
Maurice Lednicky.....	100.00
Michael & Melanie Lutes (Mongolia)	480.00
Lloyd & Maria Marsh, Jr. (Bolivia)	180.00
Steve McCarty (El Salvador)	5,640.00
Mike McClaffin (Africa)	1,200.00
Kevin McGee (Kenya)	240.00
Ron McMarius (Equip)	6,000.00
J.D. Middlebrook (Kenya)	80.00
Chuck Ness (Kenya)	70.00
Olive Branch (International)	231.00
Panama	789.65
Jason Parnell (Bosnia)	240.00
Michael & Renay Powell (Mexico)	180.00
Ben Roberson (Asia)	75.00
Gary Pyatt (Jamaica).....	1,940.00
Edgar & Janora Reed (Congo).....	240.00
Kim A. Robinette (Central Asia)	3,240.00
Kelly & Cynthia Robinette (Cambodia)	600.00
Byron & Diane Salmon (MAPS)	300.00
John Sayre	70.00
Bernie & Brenda Smith (Togo)	240.00
Kenneth M. & Terry Smith (Latin America)	1,200.00
Abe Sobczak (Cambodia)	120.00
Speed the Light	77,862.01

Foreign Missions Continued

Leonard & Diane Stitt.....	480.00
Ramon & Wanda Talley (Ecuador).....	600.00
Dave Thompson (Kenya).....	400.00
Ray Trask (Thailand).....	120.00
Thomas Trask.....	480.00
Tsunami Victims.....	5,000.00
Mark & Anita Van Gorp (MM/Eurasia).....	240.00
Stewart Vanarsdale (Global University).....	300.00
Terry & Deborah Walsner (Thailand).....	1,200.00
Thomas & Phyllis Wheeler (Indonesia).....	720.00
Wayne & Marie Wilson (Mexico).....	200.00
James Wright (Northern Asia).....	300.00
Erik Yerger (Philippines).....	120.00
Total Foreign Missions Expense	\$567,578.41

Home Missions

James Becker (Chi Alpha).....	120.00
Benevolence.....	33,775.62
BGMC.....	5,719.85
Kendall Bridges (Maps).....	6,000.00
Calvary Fellowship (Johnson City).....	1,000.00
Central Bible College.....	300.00
Christmas Offering.....	21,177.93
Convoy of Hope.....	120.00
Cornerstone Worship Center.....	657.00
CYM Missions Trip #1 (Pawcatuk, CT).....	3,999.69
Christopher Davis (Chi Alpha).....	100.00
Shawn Galvin (Chi Alpha).....	25.00
Alton Garrison.....	5,000.00
Gideons.....	5,000.00
Global Network (Orlando, FL).....	5,000.00
David Grant (Evasia).....	15,000.00
J.D. Hightshoe (Halifax Worship Center).....	250.00
Homeless Ministry.....	15,504.90
Hurricane Katrina.....	31,249.32
Hurricane Rita.....	5,000.00
LA Inner City Church.....	600.00
Media Outreach.....	120,156.91
Men's Ministry Outreach.....	97.13
Mission of Mercy.....	724.39
Nashville Teen Challenge.....	110.00
Todd Nelson (Franklin, TN).....	4,267.50
New Life Corporation.....	50.00
Northridge Church.....	16,467.96
Prison Ministry.....	834.97
Southwestern Assemblies of God University.....	412.90
Spring Hill Church.....	6,300.00
Summer Life Church.....	6,464.00
Tape Ministry.....	5,558.69
Thanksgiving Offering.....	10,000.00
TN District A/G.....	238,725.83
David A. Tucker (Chi Alpha).....	180.00
TV Ministry.....	166,655.92
Total Home Mission Expense	\$732,605.51

Total Missions Expense

Total Missions Expense **\$1,300,183.92**

2005 Kingdom Victories at Cornerstone

Salvations	651
Rededications	369
Water Baptisms	245
Holy Spirit Baptisms	339

2005 Kingdom Victories from Africa Missions

Teams/Trips to Africa	2
Churches Physically Built	17
Churches Financially Built	17 roofs
Plots of Land Purchased	20 plots
Salvations	over 500

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EXHIBIT B

See attached.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Dana Lawson, am Chief Financial Officer of Cornerstone Church, and I have reviewed the attached Petition for Exemption for Closed Captioning Requirements on the basis of Undue Burden, filed on behalf of Cornerstone Church. Upon information and belief, I find the statements regarding our organization and infocus to be true and accurate and I affirm that the petition complies with the requirements set forth in Section 79.1(f) of the Commission's rules.



Dana W. Lawson, CFO1-31-06

Date